

MPA

MANAGEMENT
CAPACITY BUILDING

TRAINING

Nha Trang, Vietnam
December 4-17, 2005

TRAINING MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

Worldwide, marine protected areas (MPAs) are recognized by nations as a valuable science-based resource management tool supporting ecosystem-based conservation. The Fifth World Parks Congress meeting in Durban, South Africa, called upon the international community to establish by 2012 a global system of **effectively managed, representative networks**, of marine and coastal protected areas. The Congress recommended these MPAs be extensive and include strictly protected areas that amount to at least 20-30% of each habitat.

In order for MPAs to be effective in the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems and their resources, it is necessary to build support for marine protected areas through site-based planning. Many MPA managers and policy makers, including local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders, have insufficient access to new knowledge, information, and guidelines coming out of science, traditional knowledge, and field experience, to effectively manage MPAs. In the past there has been little opportunity to share what seasoned resource managers have learned from their own experience with other managers and staff. This training of MPA staff provides a mechanism to enable resource managers to directly experience and learn from one another, while setting new standards for the management of MPAs globally.

For nearly thirty years, NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) has been designating and managing MPA's in coastal and offshore areas of the continental United States, Great Lakes and Pacific Islands. The experience of the NMSP stems from managing a system of MPAs in a wide variety of biogeographic, cultural and historic settings. The NMSP has also been engaged in long-standing partnerships within the NOAA family, including the International Program Office, Coastal Services Center and the MPA Center. This collective expertise positions the NMSP to take an important role in sharing its resources, expertise and lessons learned with recently designated marine protected areas, both nationally and internationally, to help build capacity for effective management.

The Ministry of Fisheries, IUCN-Vietnam, USAID, NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program and International Program Office, Danida and Conservation International, have entered into an agreement to cooperate and collaborate on different phases of development of MPAs in Vietnam and the region. Through this partnership we are actively seeking to share experiences with colleagues within the region, to help build international marine and coastal stewardship, and improve our own ability to protect and manage marine resources. The first step in this direction is to collaborate on the *MPA Management Capacity Training Program*, a pilot project to build support and

expertise for effective management of MPAs within the region, while working towards building a global system of MPAs and meeting the 2012 goals of the Durban Accord.

About the Training

The *MPA Management Capacity Building Training* pilot project was designed to meet the specific management capacity training needs of the South China Seas region, including MPAs from southern China, Vietnam and Cambodia. The two-week training is the centerpiece of an on-going MPA capacity building program. The training is intended to be an intensive and interactive learning experience. While the agenda is structured, it is flexible in that it will allow the group to move forward at a pace appropriate to the group's needs, allowing ample time for exploring areas of interest and sharing site-specific experiences.

As part of the training, each participant is required to build an "implementation contract". The "implementation requirement" is a commitment to implement one strategy from each lesson plan over the next twelve months. Once having implemented these strategies, the participant is eligible for study exchanges and advanced training opportunities. Each "team" of training participants will be supported by a "mentor". The role of the mentor is to maintain a team dynamic both during the training, and over the next twelve months, and beyond, while the lessons learned from the training are being implemented at each MPA.

In addition to the *MPA Management Capacity Building Training*, there is an opportunity for outstanding MPA staff to participate in a Mentorship Training program. During this four day training, held prior to the *MPA Management Capacity Building Training*, a smaller group of individuals will be trained in both facilitation skills and in-depth knowledge about MPA management. These mentors will then serve as the team lead for their small groups during the *MPA Management Capacity Building Training*, providing the mentors with an opportunity to exercise their newly learned skills and knowledge. The mentors will continue to work with their team after the training, providing support and guidance in implementing lessons learned in the field.

The Training Manual

The training manual is organized around the twelve modules, consisting of eight topical areas for improving MPA management effectiveness. The topical areas are as follows:

MPA Management Concepts and Approaches

Zonal Management

Community-Base Management

Management Planning for Effectiveness
Enforcement Approaches and Techniques
Marine Fisheries: Issues and Approaches in SE Asia
Sustainable Tourism
Communications

The modules were designed to incorporate as much local and regional knowledge as possible, then draw on an international perspective to compare and contrast successful approaches in MPA management. Local and regional case studies will be presented by training participants to both illustrate local knowledge and start to build expertise and a knowledge resource base from within the region.

The information in the training manual follows the agenda for each day of the training. The content of the manual is intended to be richer than the lesson plans so that it may serve as a resource when participants are out in the field implementing lessons learned from the training. The training manuals have been translated into the native tongues of each of the participating countries so that the curriculum can be followed while being presented. The training manual and program were developed by compiling information from many existing MPA training sources, all of which are recognized throughout the modules as major contributors to this curriculum.